



**Consumer Electronics Association**  
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February 24, 2004

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Communications in CS Docket 97-80

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This is to notify you that on February 23, 2005, Gary Shapiro, President and CEO, Brian Markwalter, Vice President, Technology, and the undersigned, all of the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), met with Commissioner Kevin J. Martin and Catherine Crutcher Bohigian, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Martin.

During the meeting, we urged the Commission to maintain the requirement for all digital cable products -- including cable operator supplied set top box products -- to use separable security (*i.e.*, CableCARDS<sup>TM</sup>) and to maintain the July 1, 2006 deadline for cable operators' compliance as currently written in 47 C.F.R. Section 76.1204. The discussion reflected arguments that CEA and its members have made in oral and written statements in the above-referenced docket.

In addition, we provided the attached article by Stephen H. Wildstrom in the February 17, 2005 issue of *Business Week* entitled: "Too Many Remotes? Thank Cable Outfits."

This letter is being provided to your office in accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Federal Communications Commission rules. A copy of this letter has been delivered by e-mail to Commissioner Martin and Ms. Bohigian.

Very truly yours,

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Julie M. Kearney  
Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs

cc: Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Catherine Crutcher Bohigian